

Articulating the local and global socio-informational dynamics

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Socio-technical systems involve actors who create and process knowledge, exchange information and create ties between ideas in a distributed and networked manner: online social networks, blogging and micro-blogging platforms, scientific communities are, among others, examples of such systems. The state-of-the-art in this regard focuses on two main issues which are generally addressed in a relatively independent manner: the description of content dynamics and the study of interaction network characteristics and evolution. Further, many approaches focus either on the ego-centered level (describing for instance the variety of ego's immediate neighborhood) or on the global level (e.g., by describing the configuration of clusters). After reviewing the relevant state of the art, we will propose directions as to how to articulate both the actor and the group levels, and/or the interactional and informational levels. We will specifically present a variety of examples related to online communities.